

(b) if so, the objectives and main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the conversion of Central public enterprises registered under the Companies Act into Statutory Corporations. No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) does not arise.

Public Distribution System

874. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the list of articles that are distributed through the public distribution system; and

(b) whether the public distribution system is proposed to be extended to cover the weaker sections in the rural areas also?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Wheat, rice, levy sugar and controlled cloth are distributed through fair price shops/ration shops in all States and Union Territories. In certain States, limited quantities of other essential commodities like milo/coarse grains, edible oils, kerosene oil and soft coke are being distributed through the public distribution system.

(b) Strengthening of the Public distribution system to cover, especially the weaker section of the community both in the rural and urban areas in the country is under consideration of Government.

Proposal to end Controlled Cloth Production and Export Obligation of Textile Mills

875. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COM-

MERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to end the controlled cloth production and export obligation of the textile mills; and

(b) if so, salient features and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rise in Commodities Prices

876. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY:
SHRI S. R. DAMANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rise in prices of all the commodities in the country;

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government intend to take to arrest the rise in prices;

(c) whether the money supply and inflationary affects in the economy are also responsible for this spurt in prices; and

(d) if so, how far these factors have been curbed in our economy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Wholesale Price Index (1970-71=100) shows a rise of 10.1 per cent over the year ended May 28, 1977 and the Consumer Price Index (1960=100) of 8.3 per cent between April 1976 and April 1977. A large part of the rise in prices during the past year is accounted for by the sharp rise in the prices of a selected number of commodities.